



TALK OF THE TOWN

Town of Hillsborough Newsletter: June 2022

Budget to Be Approved This Month

The Hillsborough Board of Commissioners plans to approve the town's budget no later than June 27. The budget will cover July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023.

The draft budget can be viewed on the town's Budget webpage.

Rates and fees

- No property tax increase
- No stormwater fee increase

The following increases are proposed

to help cover utilities debt service and needed projects:

- 4.5% increase for water rates
- 2% increase for sewer rates

Lower minimum monthly usage

The minimum monthly usage charge for water and sewer services is expected to decrease from 2,375 gallons to 2,250 gallons in the second year of a four-year plan to provide relief to low-volume customers.

Enterprise funds

The town has two enterprise funds. Revenue from each fund cannot be used for any other purpose.

Water and sewer fund — For water and sewer service, including system maintenance and improvements.

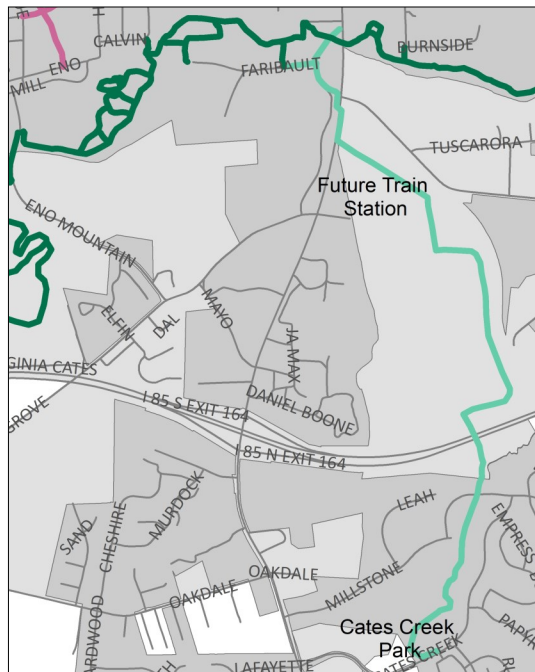
Stormwater fund — For stormwater services, including maintaining drainage infrastructure and keeping pollutants from waterways.

Town Receives State Award for Refreshed Branding

The Town of Hillsborough's refreshed branding earned a first-place Excellence in Communications Award from the North Carolina City and County Communicators this spring.

Hillsborough received the top award for branding/logo for its reworking of the Historic Orange County Courthouse's clock tower that has been a symbol of Hillsborough for many years.

The new logo, which was the top pick of four options in a community survey, was selected by the town board in spring 2020. The logo was launched in spring 2021.



Light green marks potential route of future north/south greenway. Dark green marks existing trail systems.

Weigh in on Greenway Name

We have the Riverwalk greenway, and now we're considering the name Ridgeway for a potential greenway. The town is studying the feasibility of building a north/south greenway that would follow a ridgeline connecting Cates Creek Park to the town's future train station, adjacent to the Collins Ridge neighborhood. It would connect to downtown via Exchange Club Park and Faribault Lane.

Ridgeway

Tell us what you think of the name Ridgeway. See the News section on the town website for a survey link.

New Banners



You may have noticed no flags flying along the downtown streets over Memorial Day. That's because the town has had to work out a new contract agreement with Duke Energy to once again display banners on some poles along the town's

main streets. The new banners will be installed this summer when they are available. The town has a schedule for displaying U.S. and N.C. flag banners for certain holidays, a pride flag banner for most of June and a welcome banner the rest of the year.

Sign up for Hillsborough's OC Alerts emergency notifications on the town website: www.hillsboroughnc.gov.

Utilities News

2021 Water Quality Report coming soon — The 2021 report will be posted on the town's website by July 1. The annual report includes an overview of our drinking water supply, methods of treatment and data that is required to be reported to the public annually.

Mowing of utility easements — A contractor for the town is mowing water and sewer rights of way to maintain access for routine maintenance and emergencies. The work is expected to be completed by the end of June.

Before you plant or build, make sure you are aware of any easements. The town will not replace any plants, fences, sheds or other structures that are removed from a town easement when utilities workers need to access the easement.

Discoloration — Some water customers experienced discolored water in early May. The water remained safe to drink. The discoloration was caused by higher levels of iron



Reservoir: Rainfall has helped refill the town's West Fork Eno Reservoir after construction of a new dam and higher roads. When it reaches its new capacity, the reservoir will be about 10 feet higher.

and manganese due to problems with a pump that usually helps remove these minerals from the water. Utilities crews released water from hydrants to remove the discolored water. If you have concerns or need information, contact the Water Treatment Plant at 919-732-3621.

Reminders and Updates

Holiday closures — Town of Hillsborough offices will be closed June 20 to observe Juneteenth and July 4 to observe Independence Day. The Monday routes will be collected on the Tuesday following each holiday.

Bulk items — Bulk items will be collected June 13-17. Collection is the second full week of the month, with the week starting on Sunday. See the Garbage Collection page on the town website for more information.

2022 Treasure Tree — The Hillsborough Tree Board has selected a grove of Kentucky coffeetree saplings on the Riverwalk greenway for its 2022 Treasure Tree designation. View the Tree Board page on the town website for information about the trees and the Treasure Tree program.



Keep Fats, Oils and Grease Out of Drains — Refraining from washing fats, oil and grease down drains helps prevent sewer blockages, which lead to spills and overflows that are hazardous. Please pour excess cooking fat or oil in a fat trapper or an old can or jar to cool for disposal, and wipe pots and pans with a paper towel. Ask the town for a free fat trapper or for additional bags for your fat trapper by contacting Utilities Infrastructure Protection Supervisor Troy Miller at troy.miller@hillsboroughnc.gov or 919-296-9653 or by stopping by the Town Hall Annex, 105 E. Corbin St.

Fire Department Open House — Orange Rural Fire Department will host an open house from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. June 11 at 206 S. Churton St. The department will



display trucks, demonstrate equipment and offer games for children. The department provides fire protection service to the town and surrounding land.

Pollinator Week — Celebrate National Pollinator Week June 20-26. The Hillsborough Garden Club will offer a bee photo scavenger hunt in town parks. Free wildflower seeds will be available. See the Hillsborough Garden Club's website or follow the town on Facebook, Twitter or Nextdoor for details. Hillsborough has participated in the Bee City USA program since 2016.



Stories with HPD — Hillsborough police officers will read to your children at the library, one family at a time. The 30-minute sessions are offered 4 to 6 p.m. third Wednesdays through August. Register through the library at 919-245-2532 or online at orangecountylibrary.org.

